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SERO-ALLERGIC REACTION IN BRUCELLOSIS

Ye. A. Shtivel'
Baku

Although both the Wright serological reaction and the Burnett allergic reaction are valuable in the diagnosis of brucellosis, they deal with very different processes of a protective allergic nature originating in an organism under the influence of protracted sensitization to brucellosis antigens.

On the one hand, the Wright reaction becomes positive in the presence of specific agglutinins which stimulate the immunization processes in the organism (first 10-15 days) and the agglutination titer depends on the agglutinogenic properties in the patient's serum. The alternation in brucellosis attacks intensifies allergization and increases the protective reactions of the organism, resulting in improvement and final recovery.

On the other hand, Burnett's melitin reaction does not become positive with the usual low levels of protective antibodies during the first weeks, since the organism cannot neutralize the newly administered antigen -- melitin. Hence, a positive Burnett's reaction represents a higher degree of immunity reaction at a later date -- in most cases, in remission and latent periods.

Specialists consider Wright's and Huddeson's reactions and Burnett's opsonocytophagic reaction superior to the many other laboratory methods of brucellosis diagnosis.

In addition, Wright's and Burnett's reactions are valuable in prognosis. In this case they supplement each other, since Wright's reaction covers the active process and initial phases of antibody development and immunity, while Burnett's reaction indicates a considerable degree of immunity relative to hyperergic changes in the organism's reaction. The above findings explain the positivity, negativity, and dynamic properties of sero-allergic reactions during the various stages of brucellosis.

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The high-titer Wright's reaction, aside from indicating the active processes, generally coincides with acute septic forms of the disease, while Burnett's reaction, in most cases, is not so clearly defined. However, during remissions coinciding with metastatic forms of the disease, Wright's reaction becomes weaker as the activity of the process decreases, whereas Burnett's reaction becomes more definite as the acquired resistance to brucellosis antibodies approaches immunity.

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